

Congress of the United States

Washington, D. C. 20515

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As negotiations over Phase 4 COVID-19 relief legislation continue, we urge you to continue to include strong support for the United States Postal Service (USPS) in any final relief legislation.

On April 9, 2020 Postmaster General Megan Brennan informed the House Committee on Oversight and Reform that the Postal Service anticipates a loss of \$13 billion in 2020 and \$54.3 billion over the next ten years as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The CARES Act provided USPS an additional \$10 billion in borrowing authority from the Treasury, which the Postal Service later confirmed would provide them “sufficient liquidity to continue operating through May 2021.”¹ Additionally, in May 2020, the House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act, which contained an additional \$25 billion in emergency appropriations for USPS.

Despite these emergency measures, there is substantial cause for concern. First, USPS has just recently entered into an agreement with the Treasury Department to access the additional borrowing authority granted by the CARES Act. To date, the Treasury Department has not disclosed what those conditions are to Congress. While revenue losses have thankfully not been as severe as anticipated, the Treasury Department imposing its own hidden and potentially arbitrary requirements to release Congressionally-approved funds violates the intent of the CARES Act and subverts Congressional authority. The HEROES Act rightfully includes

¹ United States Postal Regulatory Commission. (2020, May 8). *Quarterly Report*. Retrieved from <https://about.usps.com/what/financials/financial-conditions-results-reports/fy2020-q2.pdf>

language that would prevent the Treasury Department from establishing arbitrary criteria for USPS' CARES Act borrowing authority. This provision has bipartisan support in the Senate,² and in any final Phase 4 legislation, Congress must continue to ensure that USPS' access to CARES Act borrowing authority is not impeded.

Second, the new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has begun to implement new operational standards designed to reduce expenses by cutting postal workers' ability to work overtime. While the USPS OIG has found in 2019 that the amount of overtime hours worked has increased from Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2018³, Postmaster General DeJoy's new requirements have rendered postal workers unable to deliver mail in a timely manner. As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide, the likelihood of voters utilizing mail-in ballots to protect themselves and their families has increased. The potential for votes to go uncounted, or for their delivery to be delayed as a result of the Postmaster General's new requirements, threatens the integrity of the upcoming election. In any final Phase 4 legislation, Congress must mandate that USPS return to operational standards as they were on June 14, 2020, immediately prior to Louis DeJoy joining USPS.

As we continue to grapple with COVID-19, it is imperative that we maintain our support for one of our country's oldest, most cherished, and most valuable institutions. We thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
PETER A. DEFazio
Member of Congress

/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

/s/ Gerald E. Connolly
GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter Welch
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

² United States Senator Diane Feinstein. (2020, July 6). *Feinstein, Collins Bill Would Provide Postal Service up to \$25 Billion in Emergency Relief* [Press release]. Retrieved from <https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?id=EB8389B7-AEB5-4E71-B51A-33467FE05822>

³, United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General. (2019, June 13). *Audit Report: Mail Processing Overtime*. Retrieved from https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2019/NO-AR-19-005_0.pdf

/s/ Al Lawson
AL LAWSON
Member of Congress

/s/ Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress

/s/ Yvette D. Clarke
YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/ Lucille Roybal-Allard
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

/s/ Zoe Lofgren
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Dingell
DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

/s/ Terri A. Sewell
TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress

/s/ Lori Trahan
LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib
RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Ryan
TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephen F. Lynch
STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

/s/ Vicente Gonzalez
VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

/s/ Betty McCollum
BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/ Brenda L. Lawrence
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Thompson
MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

/s/ James R. Langevin
JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

/s/ Danny K. Davis
DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier
JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Pocan
MARK POCAN
Member of Congress

/s/ Jennifer Wexton
JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress

/s/ Eric Swalwell
ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Courtney
JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

/s/ Marcy Kaptur
MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins
BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan A. Davis
SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress

/s/ Chellie Pingree
CHELLIE PINGREE
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/s/ Pramila Jayapal
PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

/s/ James P. McGovern
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

/s/ Bonnie Watson Coleman
BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

/s/ Ed Case
ED CASE
Member of Congress

/s/ Earl Blumenauer
EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

/s/ Frank Pallone, Jr.
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
JAMIE RASKIN
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/s/ Filemon Vela
FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy Castor
KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

/s/ Max Rose
MAX ROSE
Member of Congress

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
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/s/ Mark DeSaulnier
MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress

/s/ Deb Haaland
DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan Wild
SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress

/s/ Brendan F. Boyle
BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee
BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Himes
JIM HIMES
Member of Congress

/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster
BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

/s/ Katie Porter
KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta
JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez
NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal
ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

/s/ Ayanna Pressley
AYANNA PRESSLEY
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/s/ Jerrold Nadler
JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

/s/ Marcia L. Fudge
MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Wasserman Schultz
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephanie Murphy
STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

/s/ Colin Allred
COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress

/s/ David Price
DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

/s/ William R. Keating
WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks
GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress

/s/ André Carson
ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann McLane Kuster
ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress

/s/ Eddie Bernice Johnson
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

/s/ Karen Bass
KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

/s/ Marc Veasey
MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress

/s/ Linda T. Sánchez
LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy, III
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace Meng
GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerry McNerney
JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress

/s/ Joyce Beatty
JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress

/s/ David N. Cicilline
DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Gomez
JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress

/s/ Lauren Underwood
LAUREN UNDERWOOD
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán
NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress

/s/ Denny Heck
DENNY HECK
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Takano
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

/s/ TJ Cox
TJ COX
Member of Congress

/s/ A. Donald McEachin
A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress

/s/ Dwight Evans
DWIGHT EVANS
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/s/ Jason Crow
JASON CROW
Member of Congress

/s/ Robert. C. “Bobby” Scott
ROBERT. C. “BOBBY” SCOTT
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress

/s/ Adam Smith
ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

/s/ Julia Brownley
JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

/s/ Joaquin Castro
JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

/s/ Mikie Sherrill
MIKIE SHERRILL
Member of Congress

/s/ Angie Craig
ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress

/s/ Cheri Bustos
CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

/s/ John Yarmuth
JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Patrick Maloney
SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

/s/ Lois Frankel
LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress

/s/ Jan Schakowsky
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

/s/ Robin L. Kelly
ROBIN L. KELLY
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Cooper
JIM COOPER
Member of Congress

/s/ Ro Khanna
RO KHANNA
Member of Congress

/s/ Dina Titus
DINA TITUS
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/s/ Hakeem Jeffries
HAKEEM JEFFRIES
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/s/ Mike Levin
MIKE LEVIN
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/s/ Sean Casten
SEAN CASTEN
Member of Congress

/s/ Doris Matsui
DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

/s/ John Garamendi
JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

/s/ Bradley S. Schneider
BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress

/s/ John P. Sarbanes
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/s/ G. K. Butterfield
G. K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress

/s/ Tom Malinowski
TOM MALINOWSKI
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/s/ Emanuel Cleaver, II
EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress

/s/ Adriano Espaillat
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Doyle
MIKE DOYLE
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/s/ Jared Huffman
JARED HUFFMAN
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/s/ Abby Finkenauer
ABBY FINKENAUER
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/s/ Darren Soto
DARREN SOTO
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/s/ Scott Peters
SCOTT PETERS
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/s/ Mike Quigley
MIKE QUIGLEY
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/s/ John B. Larson
JOHN B. LARSON
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/s/ Lloyd Doggett
LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress

/s/ Sharice L. Davids
SHARICE L. DAVIDS
Member of Congress

/s/ Mary Gay Scanlon
MARY GAY SCANLON
Member of Congress

/s/ Tulsi Gabbard
TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

/s/ Raja Krishnamoorthi
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress